

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 21, 2007, setting forth a shortened three month statutory period for reply expiring on March 21, 2008. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is filed herewith.

In brief review, the Office Action rejected claims 29 and 38-44 as indefinite under 35 USC 112; rejected claims 28, 29, 32, 35, 36 and 38-41 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,539,962 to Seufert et al. (hereinafter the '962 patent); and rejected claims 33, 34, 42, and 43 as obvious in view of the '962 patent combined with U.S. Patent No. 3,384,704 to Vockroth et al. (hereinafter the '704 patent).

RESPONSE TO INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejected claims 29 and 38-44 as indefinite under 35 USC 112. The Office Action considered claim 29 to be vague and indefinite because:

Claim 29 depends on claim 28 and recites that the second open end of the collet housing is configured and dimensioned to allow the first end of the collet to extend beyond the second end of the collet housing, while claim 28 calls for the collet housing having a funnel-shaped interior configured and dimensioned to fit the outside slope of the collet to enable the collet to slide into the collet housing without allowing the collet to be forcibly pulled through the second open end of the collet housing.

Office Action of December 21, 2007, page 3.

Applicant has amended claim 28 according to the following, in part:

a collet housing having a first open end to allow the collet to fit into the collet housing and a second open end having a smaller internal diameter than the first open end, the housing having a funnel-shaped interior configured and dimensioned to fit the outside slope of the collet to enable the collet to slide into the collet housing, the funnel shaped interior of the housing configured and dimensioned to apply increasing compressive forces to the exterior of the collet as the collet is further compressed into the collet housing ~~without allowing the collet to be forcibly pulled through the second open end of the collet housing.~~

Applicant has amended claim 29 according to the following:

A fitting according to claim 28, wherein the second open end of the collet housing is configured and dimensioned to allow a portion of the first end of the collet to extend beyond the second end of the collet housing to facilitate distribution of frictional force between the core and the lumen.

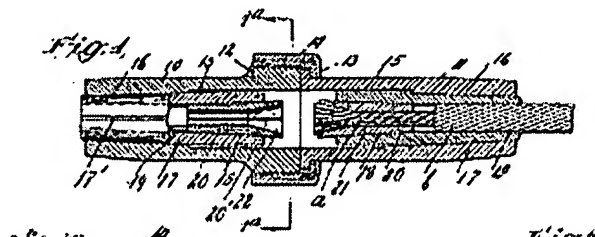
Applicant believes that the amendments overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112 and respectfully requests reconsideration of the same.

Applicant amended claim 38 to read "a conical shaped collet." Applicant believes that the amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 USC 112 for claims 38 and dependent claims 39-44. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the same.

RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATION REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejected claims 28, 29, 32, 35, 36 and 38-41 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the '962 patent. Claims 28, 29, 38-43 have been amended.

Amended claim 28 recites in part, "the composite core having a structure to fit the lumen" and "the interior radius of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core." The '962 patent fails to teach or even suggest a collet having a lumen defined by an interior radius, "the interior radius of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core " as recited in claim 28. The '962 patent teaches "a sleeve 17, which externally is shaped to conform with the internal shape of said sections of the bushing and which internally is conical at its inner end as at 18 and cylindrical at its outer ends as at 19." '962 patent, col. 1, lines 38-45.



The '962 patent further teaches:

In the conical portion of each sleeve is adapted to bear a nozzle 20 in form of a truncated cone having a cylindrical bore 21, which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22. This nozzle 20 is adapted to receive the steel portion a of the bi-metallic conductor, the free end of which is widened or bent in form of a knot. The copper or aluminum portion b of the conductor is received by the cylindrical part of the outer portion of the sleeve 17. Both the nozzle 20 and the sleeve 17 are longitudinally split as at 20', 17' to be resilient. ***The conical outer face of the nozzle 20 on the conical inner face 16 of the bushing are parallel, whereby the tension exerted on tightening the cable or conductor is uniformly distributed to the steel and aluminum or copper portions thereof and the stronger the pull on the conductor the more does its part become wedged in the bushing and nozzle.***

'962 patent, col. 1, lines 45-54 to col. 2, lines 55-67 (emphasis added).

As shown in the figure above, the '962 patent teaches a conical shaped cone that is inserted in the interior end of the sleeve 17. The conical shaped cone is designed to splay the inner steel core when compressive pressure is applied to the part. As such, the '962 patent fails to teach or even suggest a collet that is "configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core" as recited in claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 as amended, and dependent claims 29, 32, 35, and 36 that depend from claim 28, are believed to be allowable over the cited art.

Amended claim 38 recites in part:

the collet defining a concentrically oriented lumen for receiving and frictionally engaging the core, the lumen defining an interior ~~radius~~ configured and dimensioned having a substantially constant diameter to substantially conform to an outer shape and size of the core, *the interior of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the outer shape and size of the core.* (emphasis added.)

For the reasons set forth above, the '962 patent fails to teach or even suggest a collet having an interior of the lumen that is *configured and dimensioned to maintain the outer shape and size of*

the core. Accordingly, claim 38 as amended, and dependent claims 39-41 that depend from claim 38, are believed to be allowable over the cited art.

RESPONSE TO OBVIOUSNESS REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejected claims 33, 34, 42 and 43 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the '962 patent to Seufert in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,384,704 to Vockroth (hereinafter the '704 patent). The Office Action rejected claims 30, 31, 37 and 44 as allegedly unpatentable under 35 USC 103(a) over the '962 patent to Seufert in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,988,727 to Berndt.

Claims 33 and 34

Claim 28 as amended recites a collet having a lumen defined by an interior radius, *"the interior radius of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core."* The '704 patent teaches a pair of jaws where "[t]he tapers 6' and 16 between insert 4 and jaws 6 urge the jaws into gripping engagement with core S." '704 patent, col. 2, lines 60-62. That is, the jaws are designed to bite into the core. The '962 patent teaches a truncated cone "which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22." The "outwardly widening mouth" causes the inner steel core of the cable to splay to fill the gap. The cited references either alone or in combination, fail to teach or even suggest a collet that is "configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core." Accordingly, neither the '962 patent nor the '704 patent disclose the invention as claimed in claim 28. Claims 33 and 34 depend from claim 28. For at least this reason, dependent claims 33 and 34 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 42 and 43

Claim 38 as amended recites a collet having a lumen defined by an interior, *"the interior of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the outer shape and size of the core."* The '704 patent teaches a pair of jaws where "[t]he tapers 6' and 16 between insert 4 and jaws 6 urge the jaws into gripping engagement with core S." '704 patent, col. 2, lines 60-62. That is, the jaws are designed to bite into the core. The '962 patent teaches a truncated cone "which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22." The "outwardly widening mouth" causes the inner steel core of the cable to splay to fill the gap. The cited references either alone or in combination, fail to teach or even suggest a collet having a lumen defined by an interior, *"the interior of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the outer shape and size of the core."* Accordingly, neither the '962 patent nor the '704 patent disclose the invention as claimed in claim 38. Claims 42 and 43 depend from claim 38. For at least this reason, dependent claims 42 and 43 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 30, 31 and 37

For the reasons set forth above, the '962 patent does not disclose the invention substantially as claimed. The '727 patent teaches "members 17 and 18 are each formed to provide said gripping jaws by the slots 22." '727 patent, col. 2, lines 55-56. The '962 patent teaches a truncated cone "which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22." The "outwardly widening mouth" causes the inner steel core of the cable to splay to fill the gap. The cited references either alone or in combination, fail to teach or even suggest a collet having a lumen defined by an interior radius, *"the interior radius of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core."* Accordingly, neither the '962 patent nor the '727 patent disclose the invention as claimed in claim 28. Claims 30, 31 and 37

depend from claim 28. For at least this reason, dependent claims 30, 31 and 37 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 44

For the reasons set forth above, the '962 patent does not disclose the invention substantially as claimed. The '727 patent teaches "members 17 and 18 are each formed to provide said gripping jaws by the slots 22." '727 patent, col. 2, lines 55-56. The '962 patent teaches a truncated cone "which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22." The "outwardly widening mouth" causes the inner steel core of the cable to splay to fill the gap. The cited references either alone or in combination, fail to teach or even suggest a collet having a lumen defined by an interior, *"the interior of the lumen configured and dimensioned to maintain the outer shape and size of the core."* Accordingly, neither the '962 patent nor the '727 patent disclose the invention as claimed in claim 38. Claim 44 depends from claim 38. For at least this reason, dependent claim 44 is believed to be allowable.

DOUBLE PATENTING

The Office Action rejected claims 28 and 30-37 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 5, 8 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 7,019,217 (the '217 patent) in view of Seufert et al. The '962 patent either alone or in combination with the '217 patent, fails to teach or even suggest a collet having a lumen defined by an interior radius that is "configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core." Indeed, the '962 patent teaches away from a collet configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core. The '962 patent teaches a truncated cone "which at its inner end terminates in an outwardly widening mouth 22." The "outwardly widening mouth" causes the inner steel core of the cable to splay to fill the gap. For at least this reason, it

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would not have been obvious to provide a collet having a lumen defined by an interior radius that is "configured and dimensioned to maintain the structure of the composite core." For at least this reason, amended claim 28, and dependent claims 30-37 that depend from claim 28, are believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

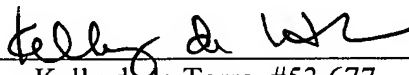
In view of the above, claims 28-44 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable.

An RCE is being filed with this response. No additional fees are believed due with this response. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, please contact the undersigned at 303-223-1178.

Respectfully submitted,

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